

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 DAMASC 05129 101534Z

ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 FEA-01 ERDA-05 AID-05

CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 FPC-01 H-01 INR-07

INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-05 USIA-06

OES-07 SP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00 ACDA-07 /112 W

-----072462 110212Z /63

R 101500Z AUG 77

FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4351

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAMASCUS 5129

ATHENS FOR RTDO

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG, SY

SUBJ: SHELL NEGOTIATIONS WITH SYRIAN PROCEEDING OPTIMISTICALLY

REF: (A) DAMASCUS 2859, (B) DAMASCUS 4629

1. MR. R. S. CLARKE SHELL ATTORNEY LEADING NEGOTIATING TEAM NOW IN SYRIA TOLD ECONOFF THAT IT LOOKS LIKELY SHELL WILL SIGN CONTRACT FOR EXPLORATION CONCESSION WITH DAMASCUS IN QTE VERY NEAR FUTURE UNQTE. SYRIAN OPERATION WILL BE 50/50 PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN ROYAL DUTCH SHELL AND SHELL OIL CO. (US) WITH ROYAL DUTCH PROVIDING GENERAL MGR AND US COMPANY DOING ALL TECHNICAL WORK. CLARKE EXPECTS INITIAL TEAM WILL BE IN DAMASCUS BY BEGINNING 1978 WITH SUBSTANTIAL PRESENCE NOT EXPECTED BEFOR SUMMER 1978. (POSS 10-15 US, UK & DUTCH EMPLOYEES PLUS SCORE OR MORE EMPLOYEES GEOPHYSICAL EXPLORATION SUBCONTRACTOR) CLARKE STATES SAMOCO CONCESSION (REFTEL ?) TOOK AWAY TWENTY PERCENT OF AREA SHELL HAD BEEN INTERESTED IN, BUT REMAINDER  
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JUSTIFIES INVESTMENT FOR EXPLOCATION. (CLARKE BELIEVES SAMOCO BACK IN TOWN NEGOTIATING BUT HAS NO DETAILS.)

2. CLARKE, HHO HAS HAD NO PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE IN MIDDLE EAST, WAS LESS FORTHCOMING THAN DOWNEY (REFTEL A) AND UNWILLING PROVIDE MUCH INFORMATION

ON SPECIFIC OF CONCESSION AGREEMENT.

MURPHY

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** NEGOTIATIONS, EXPLORATORY DRILLING, PETROLEUM CONCESSIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Sent Date:** 10-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1977DAMASC05129  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D770288-0930  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** DAMASCUS  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Legacy Key:** link1977/newtext/t19770878/aaaacnyp.tel  
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**Litigation History:**  
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**Office:** ACTION EB  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 77 DAMASCUS 2859, 77 DAMASCUS 4629  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 26-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 1650969  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** SHELL NEGOTIATIONS WITH SYRIAN PROCEEDING OPTIMISTICALLY  
**TAGS:** ENRG, SY, SHELL OIL COMPANY, ROYAL DUTCH SHELL  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009